

Taliban retraining camp idea irks Kabul

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KABUL, Afghanistan, Feb. 4 (UPI) -- Afghanistan's government bristled Monday over allegedly secret British plans to set up camps to train anti-Taliban militias.

Officials in Kabul had no official comment, but they told The Financial Times they had no prior knowledge of the reported plan to set up camps in the Helmand province of Afghanistan to provide both military and vocational training for as many as 2,000 former Taliban fighters.

"We have operational discussions about these security issues with the international community on a weekly basis, so why did they keep this secret?" one official fumed.

The idea came to light in late December when electronic documents were found on a team of Afghan and Western officials detained in Afghanistan.

The United Nations and European Union have since denied they were attempting to negotiate with the Taliban behind the backs of the Afghan government.

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